

COMMANDING OFFICER'S STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION & RESPONSE

SEXUAL ASSAULT HAS NO PLACE IN OUR RANKS. IF LEFT UNCHECKED, IT WILL REMAIN A SILENT ENEMY WALKING AMONGST US-AN ENEMY THAT INFLICTS TERRIBLE PAIN ON ITS VICTIM, DESTROYS UNIT COHESION AND LEAVES A LASTING STAIN ON OUR REPUTATION. DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT THAT REPUTATION- EARNED BY THE TREMENDOUS EXAMPLE AND SACRIFICES OF COUNTLESS MARINES PAST AND PRESENT.

Sexual assault is a dishonorable, despicable and destructive criminal act that will not be tolerated. The term "sexual assault" is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, abuse of authority, or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, forcible sodomy (oral or anal sex), and other unwanted sexual contact that is aggravated, abusive, or wrongful (to include unwanted and inappropriate sexual contact), or attempts to commit these acts.

"Consent" is defined as words or overt acts indicating a freely given agreement to the sexual conduct at issue by a competent person. An expression of lack of consent through words or conduct means there is no consent. Lack of verbal or physical resistance or submission resulting from the use of force, threat of force, or placing another person in fear does not constitute consent. A current or previous dating relationship by itself or the manner of dress of the person involved with the accused in the sexual conduct at issue shall not constitute consent. There is no consent where the person is sleeping or incapacitated, such as due to alcohol or drugs, or mental incapacity. There is no consent when the person is under legal age.

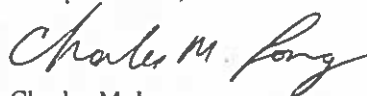
Sexual assault has no place in our ranks. If left unchecked, it will remain a silent enemy walking amongst us-an enemy that inflicts terrible pain on its victims, destroys unit cohesion and leaves a lasting stain on our reputation. **We must all do our part to protect that reputation earned by the tremendous example and sacrifices of countless Marines past and present.**

Reporting an incident of sexual assault may be initiated via the following reports:

- A Restricted Report allows you to receive SVC/VLC legal advice and medical and advocacy services, but does not trigger an investigation. Information will be provided to Command that does not reveal your identity, nor that of the alleged offender. Only these professionals can accept a Restricted Report:
 - Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or SAPR VA
 - Healthcare providers and healthcare support personnel.
- An Unrestricted Report allows you to receive medical treatment, advocacy services, and legal support. As part of this option, DoD law enforcement initiates an investigation and your chain-of-command is notified. Only those personnel who are need-to-know will have access to relevant information. You have the right to be reasonably protected and may also be eligible for other protections, including a Military Protective Order, civilian protective order, or an Expedited Transfer.

SAPR Victim Advocates are available 24/7 at (573) 337-9632 to serve as your advocate providing emotional support and referral information regarding medical, legal and administrative assistance. Additional support is available through the FLW MARDET SARC Mr. James Landrith, located in Building 1770, at (573) 596-0186 (office) or (573) 337-5076 (duty cell). Also available 24/7 is the FLW Sexual Assault Support Line at (573) 855-1327, staffed by installation SHARP personnel. Additionally, the DoD Safe Helpline can be reached at (877) 955-5247 or by chat at safehelpline.org. The National Sexual Assault Hotline can be reached at (800) 656-4673 or by chat at hotline.rainn.org/online.

Semper Fidelis,



Charles M. Long

Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

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